GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3013
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Great Indian Bustard
Girri Shri Maheish

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any progress in the artificial breeding of the Great Indian Bustard, a critically endangered species;
(b) if so, the details thereof including milestones achieved since the last one year;
(c) whether there is any contributory role of the three participatory States (Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra) in the implementation of this programme and if so, the details thereof;
(d) the projected increase in the population of the Great Indian Bustard by 2017-18; and
(e) the details of the steps taken to reduce poaching of the Great Indian Bustard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) and (b) The Ministry has taken up an initiative on conservation breeding of Great Indian Bustard with technical supervision of Wildlife Institute of India (WII). The important objective of this programme is to build up captive population of GIB and to release the chicks in the wild for increasing the population. The States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra are the important range States involved in this programme. The following are the important developments in this regard:

i. A workshop on the role and importance of the Indian Army in conservation of GIB was organized at Jodhpur Command Warfare Centre on 12th July, 2016 with a view to seek cooperation of Indian Army in conservation efforts of Great Indian Bustard, as about 50% of the global population of GIB is found in areas controlled by the Indian Army.
ii. Permission to install satellite tags in 6 birds for monitoring and tracking its location accorded.

iii. Rajasthan State Forest department has provided a list of 10 potential sites for setting up of the breeding facility. After consultation with the foreign expert Mr. Keith Scotland from Houbara Breeding Center Uzbekistan, the choice was narrowed down to 'Sorsan' site near Kota.

iv. Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has received funding from MoEF&CC to establish the breeding facility in partnership with Rajasthan Forest Department and MoEF&CC.

(c) Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra are the important range States for Great Indian Bustards in the country. These States are consulted and consent taken for activities for focused conservation of the bird. The respective State Forest Departments provide all support including land, infrastructure facility for proper functioning of the conservation breeding centres.
(d) Specific population estimates cannot be projected unless systematic population assessment is carried out. The Ministry has already directed the State Governments for population assessment.

(e) The important steps taken to reduce poaching of Great Indian Bustard includes the following:

i. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for stringent punishment for hunting of wildlife. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).

ii. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

iii. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to ensure co-ordination among various officers and State Governments in connection with the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

iv. The local communities are involved in conservation measures through eco-development activities who help the forest department in protection of wildlife.

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